

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 NASA-01

NSC-05 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 NRC-05 ERDA-05

FEA-01 INT-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8197

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5221

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, IN

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE - BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON UN REMOTE
SENSING NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 086576

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES VISIT OF ONE US TECHNICAL EXPERT FAMILIAR
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WITH THE UN NEGOTIATIONS TO EXPLAIN THE DETAILS OF OUR POSITION

TO PERTINENT POLICYMAKING INDIAN OFFICIALS AND TO THE EMBASSY STAFF.

2. IN VIEW OF CURRENT GOI ATTACKS ON THE US GOVERNMENT, (THREAT FROM A SEA POWER, ETC.), WE DO NOT THINK A LARGER DELEGATION EMPHASIZING POLITICAL ISSUES WOULD BE SO EFFECTIVE AT THIS TIME.

3. ON THE TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL, INDIAN OFFICIALS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT LANDSAT COOPERATION, BUT HESITATE TO BROADCAST IT FOR POLITICAL REASONS. AFTER YEARS OF TRYING, CHAIRMAN OF THE GOI SPACE COMMISSION AND SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, SATISH DHAWAN, FINALLY GOT PERMISSION FOR HIS DEPARTMENT TO SIGN AGREEMENTS WITH NASA, WHICH AGREEMENTS REQUIRE PUBLISHING OF THE EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS, ALLOWING INDIAN PARTICIPATION IN ERTS (AND NOW) APOLLO-SOYUZ REMOTE SENSING EXPERIMENTS.

4. ENTHUSIASMS OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL OFFICIALS ARE MODERATED BY AN INTERNAL TUG OF WAR BETWEEN THE VARIOUS GOI AGENCIES--SUCH AS SPACE, SURVEY, AIR FORCE, ETC. THE REMOTE SENSING AGENCY MAY HELP COORDINATE THESE INTERESTS.

5. NASA ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR APPLICATIONS MATHEWS AND DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMS BARNES, IN INDIA FOR A MEETING ON THE SATELLITE INSTRUCTIONAL TELEVISION EXPERIMENT, HAVE DISCUSSED LANDSAT OPERATIONS WITH INDIAN OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, AND SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, AND REMOTE SENSING AGENCY AS THEIR HEAVY SCHEDULE PERMITTED. THEY PLAN TO SEE THE GOI SURVEYOR GENERAL DR. HARI NARAIN IN HYDERABAD TODAY.

6. THE GOI POSITION IN THE UN MAY WELL DIVERGE FROM THE APPARENT OPINIONS OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL OFFICIALS, AND COINCIDE WITH THAT OF THE USSR, IF NOT OF BRAZIL. THE SUGGESTED EXPERT VISIT MIGHT HELP THE TECHNOLOGICAL TYPES PERSUADE THE POLITICAL INDIANS NOT TO MAKE A STRONG FUTILE ATTEMPT TO PRESERVE INDIA AS AN INTERNATIONALLY NONSENSED LAND.

7. ALTHOUGH MAY IS PERHAPS THE MOST DIFFICULT MONTH IN WHICH TO LOCATE KEY INDIANS, LET US KNOW WHO IS COMING AND WHEN, AND WE WILL ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH HIGH-LEVEL FOREIGN, ECONOMIC, DEFENCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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SCIENCE, SPACE, AND AGRICULTURE MINISTRY OFFICIALS AS PERTINENT. SAXBE

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